Proceedings

of the Congress of the Confederate States

on the announcement of the Death of Hon. John Tyler.

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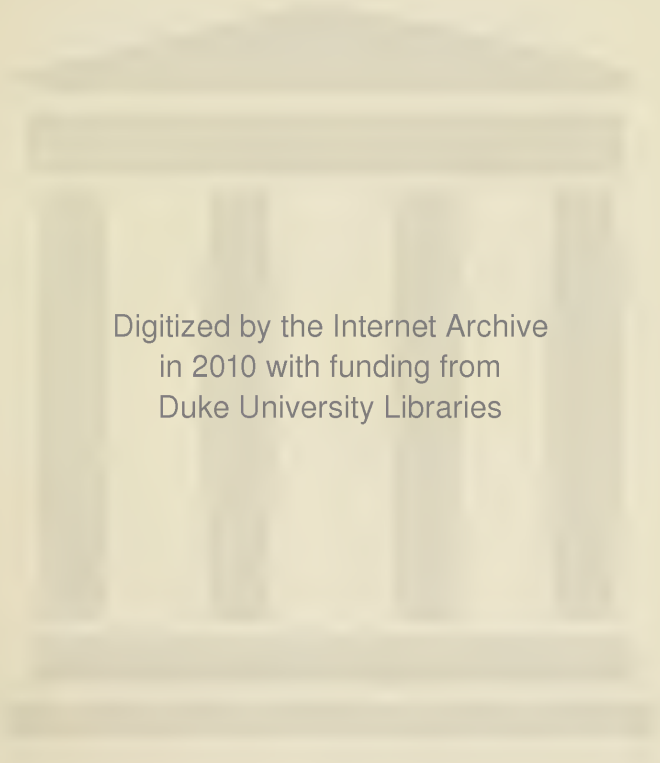
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CONGRESS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

PROCEEDINGS

ON THE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DEATH

OF

HON. JOHN TYLER,

JANUARY 20TH, 1862.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CONGRESS,
By J. J. HOOPER, Secretary.

RICHMOND:
ENQUIRER BOOK AND JOB PRESS.
TYLER, WISE, ALLEGRE AND SMITH.
1862.

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Portsmouth
Virginia

RESOLUTION OF THE CONGRESS.

3/7/32
Rouse H. C.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Congress cause 2,500 copies of the proceedings of Congress, upon the occasion of the death of Hon. JOHN TYLER, together with the addresses delivered, and the funeral discourse of the Right Reverend Bishop JOHNS, to be printed in pamphlet form, for the use of the House.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE CONGRESS,
JANUARY 25, 1862.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Congress, on this day, to wit: The twenty-fifth day of January, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-two.

J. J. HOOPER,
Secretary of the Congress.

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PRAYER BY REV. DR. HOGE.

Congress met at 12, M., and was opened with the following prayer:

With lowly reverence of spirit, and hearts filled with sadness and awe, we come into Thy presence, O! Lord, most high and holy! We humble ourselves under Thy mighty hand. Clouds and darkness surround Thee, but righteousness and judgment are the habitations of Thy throne. How unsearchable are Thy decrees, and Thy ways past finding out. We cannot fathom the depth of Thy infinite designs or scan the wisdom of Thine inscrutable providences. Enable us, then, to feel our helplessness, our ignorance, our frailty. Make us submissive in the day of Thy power. When we cannot explain the reasons of Thy dispensations, may we be silent. When we cannot comprehend, may we adore.

This day, O God, the solemn voice of Thy providence unites with the voice of inspiration to admonish us of the transitory nature of all earthly good. In taking from us one high in office and honor, long beloved and revered, Thou hast sent bereavement not only upon a household, but upon our whole Commonwealth—upon our entire Confederacy. Once more are we admonished that in this world nothing is secure, nothing permanent. Here we walk in a vain show, disquieting ourselves in vain; and amid these

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shifting scenes, where disappointment follows expectation, and sorrow swallows up our joy, Thou alone remainest undisturbed and unchanging—the only enduring treasure, the only satisfying portion of the soul. O, help us, at this very hour, to look away from earth, with its unsubstantial and dissolving good, to the world whose joys fade not, whose treasures perish not, and whose blessed inhabitants freed from sorrow and pain, enjoy a repose which is unbroken and eternal.

Almighty God, Father of Mercies, in Thee all the fountains of consolation are to be found. This day would we bear in the arms of our faith and Christian sympathy before Thee those who are most affected, most afflicted by this event. Be pleased, O Lord, to bind up the hearts which bleed, and grant that those who now sorrow under this heavy stroke of Thy hand may find in Thee their refuge and strength; their very present help and consolation in this the hour of their anguish.

Almighty God, grant that all within these walls may derive salutary instruction from this impressive providence. May we feel the necessity of ever living in expectation of the summons which will call us into the invisible state. May we not be so much concerned about the time and circumstances of our death as about our preparation for it; so that whether the silver chord is suddenly and unexpectedly loosed, or whether our change shall come with long premonition, it may find us prepared, with our spirits safe in the hands of their Redeemer, and ready for their entrance into a world of eternal blessedness and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

REMARKS OF MR. MACFARLAND,

OF VIRGINIA.

Mr. President :—My colleagues have been pleased to assign to me the sad duty of proposing resolutions, to express the sense of Congress of the great bereavement it is summoned unexpectedly to mourn and lament. I wish it were in my power to perform the mournful duty in a manner satisfactory to the sensibilities of Congress and the country. Any announcement of the decease of the Hon. John Tyler, is imperfect and inadequate, fails of giving utterance to the nation's lamentation, if it do not present him as a statesman and patriot, in whom his countrymen delighted to repose their confidence, and who failed not to derive fresh incentives to honor and revere him, from the faithfulness and ability with which he administered every trust.

John Tyler is an historical name. He was himself permitted to hear the judgment of his generation, and I might say, of posterity, upon the labors and motives of his life, pronouncing that they were alike elevated and successful. He was the venerable representative of the memories of a past age, with its

renounced alliances and associations, and zealous and efficient in the reforms and progress, which have made the period of his latter days forever memorable. His fame is indissolubly blended with the history of his times, and shall survive the most enduring memorials of personal affection, or of public esteem. Live, he still does, and will, in his example, his deeds, the purity of his public and private life, in his matured counsels and inflexible devotion to Constitutional, Republican Government. However profoundly the blow smote upon our own feelings, "where else could he have been relieved of the yoke of his labors so well as in the field where he bore them?"

The time in which he lived was characterized by fierce political and party divisions; and Mr. TYLER was intrepid in avowing his opinions, and resolute in defending them. His career as Chief Magistrate of the United States, exposed him to painful collisions, and demanded of him the exercise of the highest fortitude and intrepidity. He met his trials then, as he did all others, as a good and brave man may, with patience and confidence, in the ultimate vindication of his motives. It was reserved for him, here in his own State, and in her august Convention, to receive the unanimous vote of the entire body, on being proposed as a delegate to this Provisional Congress—an emphatic and deserved tribute to the fidelity of his eventful life, and to the weight of his character.

Mr. President, it is not alone for his statesmanship, and the length and variety of his public services, that Mr. TYLER will be gratefully remembered, and that admiring memories will fondly revert to, and recall

him. As in his successive elevation from one high trust to another, until he had compassed the entire round of political preferment, an increase of reputation, fame, homage, met him at every adavnce, so in private life it was his privilege to secure the respect, confidence and esteem of all who approached him. Of the most obliging courtesy, genial, generous and confiding; and withal, so engaging for his copious eloquence, his sympathy for his fellow man, and his profound views of the questions which engaged the public attention, all persons were instinctively attracted to him, nor did any go away without admiring him. You remember, sir, how the gentlemen of this House were accustomed to cluster around him, and how affable he uniformly was. Nothing alas! now remains for us, but the last sad office of mourning friends, to commemorate the afflicting dispensation.

I move the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That Congress has heard, with the deepest sensibility, of the death, in this city, on the morning of Saturday, the 18th instant, of the Hon. JOHN TYLER, a member of this Congress, from the State of Virginia.

Resolved, That as a testimonial of respect for the memory of this illustrious statesman and honored patriot, the members of the Congress will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days, and will attend the funeral of deceased at 12 o'clock to-morrow.

Resolved, That a Committee of one member from each State be appointed to superintend the funeral solemnities.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this body, in relation to the death of the Hon. John Tyler, be communicated, by the President of Congress, to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, that Congress do now adjourn.

REMARKS OF MR. R. M. T. HUNTER,

OF VIRGINIA.

I rise to offer my tribute of respect to the memory of my deceased colleague, with mingled emotions of grief and pride; of grief over the loss of such a man at such a time, and of pride in the spectacle of a life thus nobly closed, when so full of years and honors.

The name of JOHN TYLER has passed into history, and has an altar of its own in that great sanctuary of human fame. Its ordeal is over. Nothing now can dim its lustre, as it is borne along the tide of time. It has been said that the story of the humblest life, when rightly told, must afford food for the profitable study of man. With how much of interest then should we turn to the contemplation of the lives of those who are models of their kind, and who have furnished examples for the imitation of posterity; of those whose voices have been the most persuasive and convincing in counsel, or whose shout, like that of the king, has been most potent in marshalling hosts for the battle. Of the public men of our day, JOHN TYLER has been one of the most marked and distinguished. With him disappears the last, but

one, who now sits in this chamber, of those luminaries, who adorned the Senate of the United States, when I first entered upon public life. In him, too, we lose the last of that illustrious line of Southern Presidents, whose names connected us with the hightest honors of the Union, from which we have just parted. Who does not feel an increasing sense of separation as one by one pass away, not only the links of material interest, but the ties of personal association which once bound us together.

Few have filled so completely as Mr. TYLER the whole circle of honors which are open for the aspiration of our public men. He had no sooner attained his majority than he was elected to the Legislature of Virginia. After some years of service there, he was successively made a member of the Executive Council, a member of the House of Representatives of the United States, Governor of Virginia, Senator of the United States, Vice President of the United States, and, by the death of General Harrison and through the operation of the Constitution, Chief Magistrate of the land. Nor did his public career close even here. When the gathering clouds presaged the storm which is now sweeping over the land, he was called from his retirement to take part as a member of the Convention of Virginia. By the General Assembly of Virginia he was sent to the Peace Congress in Washington, over whose deliberations he presided, and afterwards he was elected a member of this Congress.

Subsequently, the people of his district elected him to the House of Representatives in the Confederate Congress, which is soon to assemble in this place.

But, rich as has been his life in public honors, it has not been more distinguished for them than by its achievements. From the very commencement of his public life he seems to have distinguished himself in whatever body he was serving, and to have won by his eloquence and ability a leading place in the estimation of his associates. A zealous advocate of the doctrines of the State-Rights party of Virginia, he, for the most part, adhered to them consistently through a long and arduous career. No public man of his day labored more earnestly than he did for the preservation of the Constitution; and he was amongst the first to declare, along with the great Carolinian, that the Constitution and the Union were one and inseparable. From the period of the first nullification controversy, from the time when he voted alone in the Senate against the Force Bill up to his last appearance in Washington at the Peace Conference, he seems to have entertained and expressed the opinion that the two must live or perish together. The same sense of the paramount obligation upon every public man to preserve the Constitution followed him into his administration of the Executive affairs of the United States. Forced to choose between a desire to gratify his personal friends, who had elected him to office on the one hand and a conscientious sense of obligations to preserve the Constitution on the other, he chose to lose his friends, painful as was the sacrifice, and to discharge his duty in the face of such difficulties as no other President had as yet encountered. From that time forward it was his lot to administer the Government in the midst of some of the severest party struggles ever known in the history of the

country, without the cordial support of either of the great political divisions of the day. But in default of this support he had the sagacity to gather around him, in his Cabinet, some of the first intellects in the land. Calhoun, Webster, Upshur, Legare and Gilmer, aided him to conduct one of the most marked and distinguished administrations in the history of American affairs. It was this administration which added Texas, an empire in territory, to the Confederacy, and which closed successfully in the Ashburton Treaty, a long and complicated negotiation between the United States and Great Britain, upon certain points of difference between them. It was in this administration that Mr. Calhoun's celebrated letter to Mr. King, for the first time, made a public demonstration before the civilized world, of the right of the slaveholding States to respect and protection for their interests. It was this administration, too, which may be said to have dealt the final and fatal blow to the Bank of the United States.

But, distinguished as was this administration of public affairs, it was, perhaps, not so remarkable as his subsequent career. He had already reached the years of three score and ten, when he left his retirement to aid in making up that great issue of human destiny which is now being submitted to a trial by battle between, as it is said, nearly a million of armed men. True to the doctrines of his life-long profession, his first object was to preserve the Constitution and save the Union along with it; but, when that hope was gone, none were more decided than he to cut loose his State from its perilous association with enemies in the disguise of friends, and none were

more resolute to make a common cause with the South and meet all the consequences of the act. From the day when Virginia made her act of separation and deliverance complete, up to the time of his death, he had thrown his whole soul into her cause, and may be said to have exhausted his dying energies in the effort to maintain and defend it. His colleagues, who are here present, will bear witness to the truth of what I say, when I affirm that throughout this great struggles, his courage has never quailed, his hope has never faltered, nor has his purpose to fight it out to the last extremity ever relaxed in the slightest degree.

Mr. President, we may truly say that, with JOHN TYLER a great man has fallen in Israel, and in that fall a grand career has been closed. The death of a good man is, doubtless, a cause for grief to the friends who survive him. But my colleague was, perhaps, as fortunate in the circumstances of his death as of his life. As the soldier upon the field of battle, he fell at the post of duty, and when his life was full of years and honors it passed away without a pang. He left us before age had bowed his frame or dimmed the light of his intellect, and he resigned life when its future course was beginning to promise here more of pain than pleasure. It is true that he did not live to witness the triumph of the great cause in which he had embarked, but he had seen enough to feel that its ultimate success was certain. And now that "the fitful fever's o'er," let him sleep well in the consciousness of a well-spent life, and of having nobly discharged his duties to his country.

To-morrow we shall lay him beneath his mother

earth, on the beautiful bank of the James, where his slumbers shall be soothed by the sound of its falling waters. Day after day for years yet to come the lights of morning and the evening shadows shall lend their varied and silent charms to the quiet scene of his deep repose. After the hour of trial is over and the great work of our deliverance is completed, Virginia, as she leans on her bloody spear to contemplate the past and behold the resting place of her dead, will raise her gauntletted hand to brush away the tear when she sees the grave of that brave old man who left his retirement to stake his fortune, his life, his reputation on the result which was to bring her safety, honor, and freedom. She will embalm his memory in her affections and hold out his example for the imitation of generations yet unborn. And his children, and their children's children, will preserve his name as an inheritance of priceless value, an heirloom which has already run with their blood through more than one generation of men distinguished for patriotism and virtue.

Mr. President, it is not my purpose to draw the portrait of the dead. His is a character which men will choose to study for themselves. They will look for it in the monuments of his own creation rather than in the testimonials of his friends. But perhaps I may say, without usurping the historian's office, that he was genial and kindly in all the relations of private life ; that he employed the gift of eloquence with which he was so rarely endowed in the public service rather than for selfish purposes ; that his capacities for usefulness seemed always to rise to the level of the demand upon them ; that he has shown

himself able to discharge high public duties under the most difficult circumstances, and that he has served his State with a love and fidelity which are beyond all praise.

But, Mr. President, may I not ask, in conclusion, if there is nothing in the present occasion from which we may draw a lesson useful to ourselves? Is there nothing in it to deepen our sense of the uncertainty of human life and the instability of human affairs? Within how short a period has death twice sent its summons in our midst, dealing his blow each time at a shining mark? Does not this impress us with a sense of the utter worthlessness of the little span of life which is accorded to us, if it be not used as a preparation for a better and more enduring state of existence? Surely the scene around us must bring home to us the truth of the great maxim that the duties of life are to be preferred to life itself.

REMARKS OF MR. RIVES,

OF VIRGINIA.

I should be wanting, Mr. President, to my own feelings, if not to the memory of our departed friend, were I not to claim the privilege of an older and longer acquaintance with him, perhaps, than any other member on this floor possessed, to add a few words to what has been already so appropriately and eloquently said by my honorable colleagues. It is now somewhat more than half a century since, a school boy in the ancient city of Williamsburg, I first made the acquaintance of Mr. Tyler, then a law student of our common Alma Mater, preparing to enter upon the career of active life. It was thus given me to observe the whole progress of his orb in the heavens from its first appearance above the horizon through its meridian brightness and splendor, to its final and serene setting in the Western sky, which we are met this day to commemorate.

As a young man, when I first saw Mr. Tyler, he was distinguished by the same blandness and courtesy of manners, the prepossessing address, and the

graceful and captivating elocution, which we have all seen displayed by him in this Hall. These qualities, the sure passport in a government like ours, to popular favor and public distinction, bore him rapidly through a succession of high public employments. As soon as he was of age, he was elected by his native county of Charles City to the House of Delegates of Virginia. His first session in that body was, if I mistake not, in the memorable year of 1811–'12, which witnessed the bold measure of the declaration of war made by the United States against Great Britain ; and the youthful legislator became, thus, closely identified with that high-spirited generation of American statesmen, who, succeeding immediately to the great men of the Revolution, and catching, as it were, the mantle of the prophet as it fell from the fathers of the Republic, continued, for thirty or forty years after them, to conduct the affairs of the Union with a patriotism, ability and success worthy of their noble sires.

In the different representative assemblies of which Mr. Tyler was successively a member, he was brought into contact with the highest intellects of the age. In the Legislature of Virginia, he was a member of the House of Delegates with Littleton Waller Tazewell, Benjamin Watkins Leigh, Charles Fenton Mercer, Robert Stanard, Philip Doddridge, General Blackburn, and many others of the most gifted spirits of this ancient Commonwealth. In the House of Representatives of the United States he was contemporary with Henry Clay, William Lowndes, John Randolph, Henry St. George Tucker, John Forsyth, Louis McLane, and a host of other distinguished

men who then illustrated the national forum. Being generally the youngest member of the body to which he belonged, and emulous of distinction, he was stimulated to the highest exertion of his powers by the living models of excellence with which he was surrounded, and his mind was thus kept in a perpetual progress of development and expansion.

Trained and formed under these auspices, he proved himself equal to all the various and arduous posts of public duty to which he was called by the favor and confidence of his countrymen. In the highest of them all, he gave an honorable proof of the elevation and magnanimity of his character by bringing into the leading Executive Departments the most towering talents of the country, to aid him in the administration of the Government. The selection of such men as Webster, Calhoun, Legare, Upshur and Spencer, proved how far he was above the operation of any unworthy sentiment of jealousy, or fear of being overshadowed in the public estimation by his official advisers; while his personal management of several of the most delicate questions of his administration—I refer more particularly to his broad and comprehensive treatment of the question of the annexation of Texas, and the firmness with which he upheld the cause of constitutional republican government in Rhode Island against the outbreak of an unlicensed democracy—attested the large and matured statesmanship he had himself acquired in the schools of practical instruction in which he was bred.

But this is neither the time nor the place to enter upon a discussion of the merits of Mr. TYLER'S administration of the Federal Government, when, by a sud-

den and unexpected dispensation of Providence, he was placed at the head of it. No one would more earnestly have deprecated the revival of forgotten controversies than himself. Among the qualities which most eminently and honorably distinguished him, was an habitual kindliness of disposition, and a generous appreciation of others, even of those who were his political enemies and opponents. It was about two years ago, in this city, on a public and memorable occasion, he did himself the highest honor by a warm, spontaneous and manly tribute to the character of a great man and deceased patriot,* who had stood towards him in the attitude of a powerful and declared opponent.

In reviewing the eventful life of Mr. Tyler, we are led, almost irresistibly, to apply to him a descriptive epithet by which the Romans were accustomed to express a quality that ever inspired their confidence and admiration. By that epithet—*felix*—they did not mean to designate a person who was merely fortunate, but one who, by a happy combination of well-tempered attributes, knew, in a measure, how to command or propitiate fortune. This sentiment was embodied by them in a maxim, tersely expressed by their great satirist—*nullum numen habes, si sit prudentia.* Thus it was with Mr. Tyler. By a rare union of prudence, good sense and good temper, set off by the natural gifts of oratory and a persuasive address, he won the hearts of the people and secured the favors of fortune ; and success waited upon him in every step of his public career.

Mr. Clay.

Delegate in the Legislature of his State, representative in Congress, Governor, Senator, Vice President, President—he "sounded all the depths and shoals of honor;" and in every trust he acquitted himself to the satisfaction of his constituents. After having filled, with honor, the highest offices of the Government of the Union—which sank, at length, under the degeneracy and corruption of the times—he lived to take a leading part in the establishment of a new Confederacy for the South, which had all his affections and all his hopes; and as a member of this House, he gave his anxious labors to the great cause of securing and perpetuating the structure.

His duties as a member of this body engaged his deepest solicitude. Unwilling to withdraw himself from them for a single day without the proper and formal sanction of the House, he said to me the day before the fatal termination of his disease that, if he should be compelled to go home to recruit his health, as he should probably find it necessary to do, he wished me to apply to the House for leave of absence for him. A far higher authority, the great Governor of the universe, has granted him that leave of absence—not from this Hall merely, but from all sublunary concerns henceforward forever. He now rests from his labors; but he has bequeathed to us the rich inheritance of his patriotic example and of his counsels.

This second admonition of the transitory tenure of human existence, with which, after so short an interval, we have been visited in this Hall, reminds us most impressively that "the paths of glory lead but to the grave." But still it is not permitted to us to

repine. "One generation passeth away and another generation cometh; but the earth abideth forever." Here, while we continue, we have our allotted work: and as those who have gone before us have labored and toiled, so must we, in our turn, toil and labor to carry forward the great schemes of Infinite Wisdom in the moral government of the world, and if we do so in humble submission to the will of Him who ruleth the destinies of men and nations, we, too, shall have our reward.

REMARKS OF MR. WIGFALL,

OF TEXAS.

[The Secretary regrets that he is unable to give Gen. Wigfall's eloquent speech. That gentleman was suddenly called to the army, on the very day of the obsequies. The following sketch appeared in the *Examiner* newspaper. – J. J. H.]

Mr. Wigfall followed, in some brief remarks. He said that he thought it would not be becoming, if some one from the State of Texas was not present to offer testimonies of respect and sorrow to the memory of the deceased, for to no man, living or among the dead, was Texas more indebted than to him. Exhausted by a war of eight years, and with British Cabinets plotting against her, Texas would have lost her nationality but for the interposition of JOHN TYLER, and to him it may be said, that she is indebted for her very existence.

Mr. Wigfall proceeded to recite the events in the political history of the annexation of Texas, the credit of this addition of an empire to the American Union being attributed, in his statement, to the firmness and perseverance of Mr. TYLER. He adverted to his illustrious public service in the affairs of the Confederacy. The speaker had made his acquaintance, in Washington, last winter. Mr. TYLER

had come there, hoping to preserve the Union, and he found the Union *dead*—dead, but lying in state, as his own body here, with pomp and circumstance around it, but the spirit departed. He had returned, to do his duty to Virginia and the South, and it might be said, that it was under his leadership, as much as that of any other, that that State went out of the Federal Union. To the last, his life was one of illustrious service and patriotic devotion, and he had gone to his rest, like the sinking sun on the horizon, leaving a very atmosphere of light behind it.

REMARKS OF MR. VENABLE,

OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Mr. President: After a short interval we are called upon again to recognize the hand of death doing his work amongst us. Another of our colleagues has obeyed the summons. Clothed in his robes of office he has finished the work assigned him, and sleeps amongst the Fathers, himself one of that patriarchal host. "The hand of the reaper took the ear that was hoary," ripe, matured and perfect. A long distinguished, useful life, filled with the service of his country, always forming a portion of its proudest history, has closed amidst its continuous duties. Closed amidst scenes of domestic endearment, varied by obedience to the call of his country in her hour of need, and at the last illuminated by the radiance of that friendship which legitimately surrounds the great and good man at the end of his life. When I saw him in this Hall, a reverential feeling pervaded and possessed me. I listened to his counsels, learned from his experience, and never before so fully realized the conception of the poet who assigned to Nestor the office of composing the difficulties and solving the perplexities which beset the Grecian council before the walls of Troy. We have all been impressed with the unimpaired vigor of his mind, as well as his kind and dignified concession on measures where there

was no sacrifice of principle to expediency. None of us have forgotten the Roman dignity with which he changed his vote upon a great measure in order that the law might go forth to the country with the prestige of unanimity.

The son of a revolutionary sire whose life constitutes so much of the history of that struggle, the fire of patriotism early kindled upon the altar of his heart, continued to glow and burn with increasing intensity, until his name, now enrolled with that of his distinguished father, will descend with renewed claims to the gratitude of posterity.

Of the political history of President TYLER, it is not my purpose to extend my remarks. We have already heard most interesting details, as far as time would permit; for should anything more than a reference be made to a career of fifty years, with small intermission in the service of a country which delighted to honor him, it would protract these proceedings to an undesirable length. To the biographer and the historian, this work must be assigned. From the year 1811, as a legislator, a lawyer, and the Chief Magistrate of the State, in the House of Representatives, the Senate and the Presidential Chair, he filled all the offices in the gift of the people until he attained the highest which they could bestow. Educated in and belonging to the Republican States Rights School, he never failed in all his public acts to recognize those doctrines, reserving for the close of his honored and useful life the crowning act which made those doctrines practical and operative. Retiring from the Presidency, like Cincinnatus, to his farm, within the circle of a lovely family, he was cheered by the hope

which all wise men cherish of that greatest of earthly blessings, that he might close his course in peace and quietness. This realization was denied him, for his country called for him again, and he once more responded to her call, in the last, the noblest service of his life. For whilst we admire the stern consistency of his public life; his resistance of the Missouri compromise upon the broad grounds of its unconstitutionality; his solitary vote in the Senate against the force bill; the sagacity which he displayed in the great measures of his administration; the wisdom with which, in utter disregard of party tactics, he surrounded himself with the greatest and the best of counsellors; the moral courage with which he emancipated the people from the thraldom of the money changers, whose fetters were well nigh fastened upon them; the separation of the Treasury from the banks, and the annexation of the vast domain of Texas—they all pale before the history of the last year of his life. Troubles, which many feared, and some anticipated with the certainty of conviction, came upon us, and the veteran once more, in armor of proof, led his countrymen to resistance. He saw that honor and independence were periled, and his great soul knew not how to hesitate. As an ambassador of Virginia to the President of the United States, he demanded, with a dignity becoming his mission, why it was that the guns of Fortress Monroe, built upon Virginia's soil for her protection, were turned against her bosom—a fact, although existing, was by that functionary denied. As a member of the State Convention, and as President of the Peace Congress, his high purpose and continual claim of the rights of the South marked

him as the "Chief of the Fathers," on whose firmness we could rely and in whose wisdom we could confide. The masterly speech delivered on his return to the Convention from the Peace Congress, which exposed the impotent and degrading conclusions proposed by that body to his State, will be long remembered. It was the great point in that discussion, it was a triumph over the last effort at submission, and our lamented colleague, looking secession and its consequences in the face, feared not to advise and to lead in the consummation which now presents us to the world as the Confederate States of America. The great master of English Poetry has said of glory, "that, like a circle in the water, it never ceaseth to enlarge itself till by broad spreading it disperses to nought." However beautiful and true this illustration may be in general, it fails in describing the glory won by our illustrious colleague, the centrifugal force increased with the extent of the surface of its influence, each succeeding circle stronger and more distinct, until the last, rising into a wave, reflected a light which adorned its whole circumference with the radiance of the bow of promise. Our eyes have been refreshed by that light; we have witnessed the vigor of his thoughts and the power of his eloquence, equalling, if not surpassing his best days. His name will be venerated as long as civil liberty and national honor is cherished by the South. To say more of this great passage of his life, would be to attempt to "add fragrance to the violet, to gild refined gold, to give smoothness to ice." His name is embalmed in the record of these events, and their irresistible logic will establish his claims to the reverence of mankind.

But, sir, I must be allowed a few remarks upon the high social and moral qualities of President TYLER. This is a theme on which it is delightful to speak; it is impressed upon my heart by the recollection of early kindness, the origin of a friendship of more than forty years—the value of which is more justly appreciated when cut off by the cold hand of death. I am not alone in the sadness with which this event, connected with similar circumstances, has filled my bosom. The same acknowledgment of kindness, and a similar sense of obligation is made and felt by many who now listen to me. The number who thus feel is limited only by the extent of his vast acquaintance with the generations which have grown up around and about him. It was often said of him by some of those who reviewed his unprecedented success in securing the confidence of his countrymen, and the high positions which he attained to have been a *fortunate, a lucky man.* This is an unphilosophical, a contracted view of his character, and the current of events in which he mingled. *Luck and fortune, sir, are heathen words,* and the want of them is usually the excuse for failures, when the cause was to be found in those who have failed. His kind heart and generous instincts, combined with a thorough knowledge of human nature, taught him that it was as necessary to happiness and usefulness to increase his stock of friends, as for a merchant to enlarge his capital, when he extended his business. Time and death were continually curtailing the number of those who were young when he was young; and he renewed his strength by generous and disinterested attentions to the rising generation. To inspire them with hope

when launching upon the ocean of life, to aid virtuous enterprise, to cheer the desponding, and give the light of his experience to those who sought it, was his peculiar delight. He wisely, benevolently regulated his intercourse with the young. "Age is dark and unlovely," and the verdure which may adorn it, and the flowers which may relieve its barren aspect must be borrowed from them. He who, conscious of the advantages of age and experience, withdraws himself from those to whom he might be a benefactor, repelling their efforts to conciliate his regard and his confidence, must expect a *lonely old age*. He will stand like some solitary tree in an extensive plain—the sport of every blast, the victim of the storm, whilst the friend and counsellor of the young, will like the monarch of the woods, be surrounded by a young forest which shelters and protects it, reflecting the brightness of their foliage, borrowing vitality from their proximity, and, at the appointed time, sink so gracefully that we are scarcely conscious of its decay. Our lamented friend appreciated all this—and, during his long and distinguished life, often felt the support of hosts who, won by former kindness, rallied to his support when fiercely assailed and almost overcome. Such events were of necessity connected with such a political life as his. Universally bland and conciliatory in his intercourse with the people, he scorned the artifices and the aims of the demagogue, regarding him as the worst, the most dangerous and unprincipled enemy of human liberty. Fixed in his opinions of constitutional law and the sound principles of its administration, he was sometimes constrained to abandon party associations, always avowing, as

the reason for such an abandonment, that the party with which he was associated had departed from the principles of their organization. He was thus unjustly reproached with a disregard of party allegiance and that adherence to its discipline which, in the eyes of many, is worse than treason to the State. He looked above such paltry calculations, and was thus more than once in a minority—a word, the very thought of which carries dismay to a trading politician—a word which had no terrors for him. Sustained by the truth and the conviction that he was right, the hour of desertion by those in high places, was the moment of his triumph, when looking above and beyond the clamors which surrounded him, he, by a talismanic power, surrounded himself with an impregnable array of wisdom, talent and statesmanship which secured more and greater advantages to the South than in any Administration within the last half century. With no party either in the Senate or House of Representatives, he conducted the affairs of the Republic with unexampled success, and has lived to silence all complaint and unite all hearts in a common mourning at his death.

President Tyler was not vindictive, he was not unjust, he was not even harsh in his judgment when he might complain of wrong. He outlived all misconstruction of his motives, and his last days were illuminated by the undivided admiration of his countrymen. He knew the value of kindness and loved to speak kind words: "Kind words are the brightest flowers of earth's existence, they make a very paradise of the humblest home this world can show. They are jewels beyond price, and more precious to

heal the wounded heart and make the weighed down spirit glad than all the blessings earth can give." *Here was the secret of his luck, the cause of his good fortune.* His hosts of friends increased with his years—here his wealth was inexhaustible—he drew upon a bank that always honored his drafts—the love, the gratitude of those endeared by kind offices, "for gratitude is the music of the heart when its chords are touched by the breezes of kindness." From associations like these, he has sunk gracefully to the tomb, and in this view of the subject, why should we grieve; sorrow we may, but murmur we dare not.

For him was not reserved physical decay to combine compassion with our reverence; no twilight of the mind, like a polar sunset, making darkness visible. But with form erect and step elastic, he moved amongst us, and was of us, whilst his mind, like the tropic sun, retained its size and brightness, until it sunk beneath the wave of Death. We have none of those painful recollections which often intrude themselves upon us, when the great and good sink into senility and vegetate out of existence.

> "Life ebbs from such old age unmark'd and silent
> As the slow neaptide leaves yon stranded galley.
> Once she rock'd merrily at the least impulse
> That wind or wave could give her; but now her keel
> Is settling in the sand. Her mast has ta'en
> An angle with the sky, from which it shifts not.
> Each wave receding, shake her less and less,
> Till bedded on the strand, she shall remain
> Useless as motionless."

No such sad finale awaited him. Like a gallant ship returning home after a long and prosperous passage over the ocean, the haven is reached, the anchor let go, and life's voyage is ended.

Sir, this scene is to me a painful, but instructive lesson. As we advance in years, the loss of those long regarded as friends is indeed, irreparable. To the older of us it announces that the time is short, our duties urgent, what we do must be done quickly and done well, remembering our duty to God and to posterity. To us all, that we are strangers, pilgrims, travellers for a short season, surrounded by fearful responsiblities, and the certainty of death. Let us look above and beyond every consideration, but that which we profess to represent, the interests and welfare of our bleeding country. Let our fortune be hers ; her safety and honor our highest aim. Rejecting all lower motives, let us emulate his patriotism, who with all the endearments of his family around him, could cheerfully die in her service, leaving his widow and infant children to his country and his God. Two of our number, after a brief illness, have bowed their heads and died. Let us seek the Christian's hope as the assurance of the Christian's Heaven.

Sir, a great light has been extinguished in this hall ; but there is a home once brightened by it which has lost much of its brilliancy. The mild, the lovely ray, which softened and relieved that stronger light, now, in sadness, shines alone. I witnessed its genial influence in the face of the sick, the dying statesman. I heard him speak of his wife and his young children, and commit them to God and his country. May He who has said "leave your fatherless children to me" smile upon and bless the bereaved household with His blessing, which maketh rich and addeth no sorrow therewith.

REMARKS OF MR. R. BARNWELL RHETT,

OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Mr. President: I am, perhaps, the oldest political associate of the deceased on this floor, excepting citizens from Virginia; and South Carolina was peculiarly identified with him, in the leading acts of his administration, when President of the United States. For these reasons, it is perhaps, not improper that I should say a few words upon the sad occasion which has brought us together.

My acquaintance with the deceased commenced when he was at the zenith of political power. He was President of the United States, by the death of General Harrison. At first, those of us who belonged to the State Rights party or the South, stood aloof from him. He had been elected Vice President upon the Whig ticket with General Harrison. They were opposites in politics. The one was a consolidationist—the other a strict constructionist. Many of the State Rights party looked upon this conjunction, with the sternest reprobation. Twenty years has passed since that time. The passions which agitated the day, have gone to rest; and

we are now able to do justice to the motives and conduct of those who differed from us. All the great questions, with the parties they produced, which influenced or controlled the government of the United States, are gone into history; and are never again to have any application to the living. The great statesmen who ruled them—Clay, Webster, Calhoun, Legare, Marshall, Leigh—were all equally patriotic. On the other side of the Potomac, the government of the United States has lapsed into a consolidated despotism. On this side of the Potomac, we have cast them out of our councils, by the Constitution we have adopted for ourselves. Parties will doubtless arise in the Confederate States; but they will turn on totally different issues than any which arose under the government of the United States. Considering, then, the events of 1840 as mere matters of history, was it wrong in the deceased to have consented that his name should have been united with that of General Harrison in the Presidential election of that year?

That the Democratic party had become greatly demoralized by its long possession of power, is undoubted. It had brought the Union to the verge of dissolution by the tariff of 1828, in the subsequent contest of 1832 and '33. Those of us of the State Rights party who assented to support Mr. Van Buren against General Harrison required a distinct declaration of principles as the condition of our support. Accordingly, the Hon. Francis Thomas, of Maryland, and myself, were appointed to prepare the Address put forth to the people of the United States by the Democratic members of Congress, just previous to the Presidential election. Mr. Tyler, who had

been prominent in the Senate in the contest of '32, thought less of the Democratic party than we did. He deemed it hopelessly corrupt; and that it was a work of patriotism to unite all the elements of opposition to eject it from power. Accordingly, he joined the Whig party, to constitute a *mere opposition party*, without any principles, or declaration of principles, to overthrow the Democratic party in the Presidential election. Was he wrong? Have not subsequent events proved, that the Democratic party of the North was just as hostile to the rights of the South as their opponents? When they joined us, it was to subserve their sectional interests. Their coaction was only policy. In 1852 they wrested California from us. In the late Presidential election they joined the sectional effort for our subjugation; and now they swell the armies of the United States, our bitterest and most most malignant foes. Dallas, Dickinson, Wilkins, McClernand, Dix, are foremost in urging on the work of slaughter and desolation over the South. The truth is, the South never had any real friends at the North. With the lights of the present day, can we condemn the course of any statesman of the South for any course of opposition to such invidious and deadly enemies?

President Tyler, on becoming President, soon found himself surrounded with the most embarrassing difficulties. Those who acted together as an opposition could not agree on any policy, so soon as they attained power. They had the possession of the Government, and must rule it by some policy. The Whigs, with Mr. Clay at their head, insisted that that policy should be the policy of the Whigs, and

that they should begin with re-establishing a United States Bank. Mr. TYLER protested against such an assumption. His State Rights principles were well known, and he was placed on the presidential ticket on account of them. He would not abandon them. The honorable gentleman over the way from Virginia, (Mr. Rives,) also protested against such a course, and met Mr. Clay in high and stern debate in the Senate, on the *incorporation* of a United States Bank. I was present at that debate; and imposing and great as Mr. Clay always was in the Senate, he was more than matched by the dauntless energy and ability displayed by my honorable friend; and Mr. Clay seemed to me to be conscious of it. The truth was, the Senator from Virginia had the right, I think, on his side, and wielded its weapons with a courage and force, which won for him the admiration of all spectators. The Bank bill, nevertheless passed; and President TYLER vetoed it. Sir, I witnessed the tremendous denunciations of Mr. Clay, in the Senate, of President TYLER, for this act of simple consistency, with all the political principles of his life. It was the most fiery and magnificent display of eloquence I ever heard, excepting on one other occasion. Mr. Clay, I doubt not, was as honest as he was earnest in these denunciations, but who now will condemn the deceased for his course? Mr. Clay carried the party with him. Cut off thus from all parties, he determined, if possible, to enforce in the Government the principles he had professed; and, for this end, to throw himself upon the State Rights party. He offered Mr. Calhoun the office of Secretary of State, with the power (common to the Pre-

mier of England) of forming the Cabinet. Mr. Calhoun consulted the honorable delegate from Virginia (Mr. Hunter) and myself, whether he should accept of the office. Both of us earnestly advised him to accept it. After a night's consideration, however, he rejected it. The Whig party was broken by the veto, and by the succeeding elections was overthrown.

At a late period of his administration, Mr. Calhoun entered his Cabinet as Secretary of State, with a view of annexing Texas to the Union—the other great measure of Mr. TYLER's administration. It is not easy at the present day to understand the state of things existing at this time. They were felt, rather than seen. The determination of the North to rule the South could be understood, but could not be proved to exist. The annexation of Texas was opposed by them for no other reason than that it strengthened the South, and impeded their progress to national dominion. In all other respects, it was of vast advantage to them. At an early period of his administration, President TYLER had meditated annexing Texas to the Union. He accomplished it, and gained a vast territory for the South; but it helped on by its agitators to drive the sections asunder. From this time forth, every measure of importance in the Government assumed a sectional character, until at last, by the late Presidential election, the South was compelled to choose her destiny, of subjection in the Union, or independence out of it. Although long in retirement, President TYLER, came forth to meet the emergency. His efforts to save the Union, consistent with the safety of the South, were in vain; and he took

his stand for uniting Virginia to the Southern Confederacy. His labors for this purpose belong to his State, but their fruits to the Confederacy.

Mr. President, as age advances, the imagination usually declines. Burke and Milton, were exceptions to this usual effect of time. Perhaps, however, this result is often more apparent than real. Indifference may produce the same effect as weakness. As age advances, the vanity of all things terrestial is forced upon the mind. Interest flags ; and without interest the power of the mind cannot be evolved. The effect of apathy is mistaken for decay. The distinguished dead before us, seemed to possess, to the last, all the energy and fire which an undimmed imagination and the strongest interest in public affairs produce. You all remember the speech he delivered at our last session, on the imposition of taxes. Virginia, and her contributions and sufferings—the Confederate States, and their high duties and obligations—our noble cause and the lofty destiny which awaited us—were the themes of his graceful and striking oratory. The youngest of us could not have spoken with more fire and force. His faculties seemed undimmed to the last.

The deceased appeared to me to possess remarkable equanimity of temper. With the deepest interest in public affairs, he had but little of that acerbity which the conflicts of public life are but too apt to produce against political foes. He was an honest man, not merely in the vulgar sense of the term, confined to pecuniary relations, but in that higher meaning of the poet, when he says that "an honest man is the noblest work of God." He gave every man his due—in their characteristics, in their ser-

vices, in their moral worth. He had none of that narrow vindictiveness in the administration of public affairs, which makes them tributary to personal passions. He was faithful to himself, whilst faithful to the country. He lifted himself to the dignity of his positions, and filled the great offices entrusted to him with a single view to the objects for which they were created. He was a man of the kindliest benevolence; yet he could see, even in the sufferings and desolations of war, the hand of a benificent Providence working out the grand result of an eternal separation from our foes. A truer and braver upholder of the independence of the Confederate States did not exist throughout our wide borders.

Sir, in conversation held, just before I left here to attend the Convention of South Carolina, whilst pacing yonder portico, he mentioned to me the efforts he had made in the Peace Conference at Washington, to satisfy the Northern delegates of the inestimable value of the South to them. He urged, that any great nation in Europe would give countless millions for the advantages the Union afforded them; but he was apparently unable to produce the least impression, to arrest their obstinate persistence in a policy of non-concession. But as soon as we had cast off the union with them, they seemed to be suddenly awaked to the tremendous ruin they had dragged down upon themselves; "and now, sir," he added," "they propose, by murdering our people and desolating our country, to force us back into an association with them, that we might again minister to their aggrandizement and wealth; but as a just God lives they must fail." Mr. President, even though dead, he

speaketh. "As a just God lives, they must fail." His venerable form will no longer be seen amongst us. His voice will no longer be heard to support the great cause in which we are engaged ; but the pious conviction he uttered will be realized in history. May we not suppose his voice to be the voice of prophecy ; and that that glorious reality he so much desired to see, of a redeemed, free and happy people in the Confederate States, will have its righteous consummation—"as a just God lives, they must fail!"

Mr. President, South Carolina mingles her grief with Virginia, over the loss of her illustrious son.

CONGRESS, January 25, 1862.

I certify that the resolutions, introduced as aforesaid, by Mr. Macfarland, of Virginia, were unanimously adopted by the Congress of the Confederate States of America, on the twentieth day of January, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-two.

JOHNSON J. HOOPER,
Secretary of the Congress.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

21st January, 1862.

CONGRESS, January 25, 1862.

I certify that, on the twenty-first day of January, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-two, on the occasion of the obsequies of the honorable JOHN TYLER, of Virginia, the following prayer was offered in the Hall of the Congress, in the city of Richmond, in the State of Virginia, by the Rev. Dr. Hoge ; and that the discourse which follows, was delivered in St. Paul's Church by the Right Reverend John Johns, Assistant (Episcopal) Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia.

J. J. HOOPER,
Secretary of the Congress.

PRAYER BY REV. DR. HOGE.

The first exercise in Congress after the House was called to order, and before the body was removed to the church, was the offering of the following prayer, by Rev. Dr. Hoge, of the Presbyterian Church :

"Almighty and ever-blessed God ! Thou hast established Thy throne in the Heavens, and Thy kingdom ruleth over all. The hearts of the children of men are in Thy hand ; their lives are subject to Thy control ; at Thy command their bodies return to the dust, and their spirits go to the God who gave them.

"We humbly beseech Thee to make us deeply sensible of our dependence on Thee, and to fill us with reverence and godly fear. And now, that we are about to go to the House of God, there to hear the instruction of Thy Holy Oracles, and thence to the grave, there to behold the place appointed for all the living, we pray Thee 'make us to know our end, and the measure of our days, what it is, that we may know how frail we are.' And may Thy Holy Spirit so accompany the solemn scenes and services of the day that we may thereby be better prepared for all that awaits us in future life, for the hour of death, and for the felicities and glories of Thine Everlasting Kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

FUNERAL ADDRESS, BY RIGHT REV. J. JOHNS, D. D.

"Render, therefore, to all their dues. * * * Honor to whom honor is due."—Rom. xiii: 7.

In rising to perform the solemn and responsible service which has been assigned me in connection with this mournful dispensation of Divine Providence, I feel that I should trespass on the appropriate province of others, if I were to presume even to sketch the public character and course of the venerable statesman around whose bier we are assembled. The grateful tribute which these deserve has, in some measure, been cordially rendered by those more conversant with his distinguished career of usefulness and honor, and more capable of delineating them with accuracy and completeness. They are the rich and precious legacy of his country, and will be conspicuously recorded in her annals as materials to adorn her history, and to animate and guide others by the salutary example which they afford.

His eventful and extended life, however, from its commencement to its close, abounds in passages of uncommon interest, within the range of less elevated observation, to which we may here briefly advert with honor to his memory and profit to ourselves.

John Tyler was the worthy son of a patriotic sire, from whose lips he received those lessons of political wisdom which gave their cast to his character, controlled his course through life, and made him eminently a blessing, not only to this Commonwealth, but to his whole country.

Imbued with the instructions, and impressed by the example of his parental home, he was sent, at an early age, to the City of Williamsburg, that he might there enjoy the advantages furnished by the College of William and Mary, then in its palmiest days. There, under the tuition of its distinguished President and learned Professors, and in association with many gifted youths of high aspirations and of emulous excellence, animating each other in the paths of literature and science—his intellectual endowments were brought out into healthy activity, and disciplined to habits of diligent application, and careful comprehensive and manly thought, whilst the patriotic principles of the homestead were matured to a vigor, and stereotyped with a distinctness, which early gained for him the generous and lasting confidence of his fellow-citizens; and which neither yielded to the sinister pressures, nor were obscured by the corrupt atmosphere which seem inseparable from eminent position and political power.

To his connection with the venerable institution of which he was an alumnus, and the stirring incidents, and the early but abiding friendships of his college course, which linked him for life with those who subsequently shared in his usefulness and renown, he was wont to recur with a glow of enthusiasm which age did not abate, and a graphic power which vividly

reproduced the scenes which he delighted to enumerate. To these spirited recitals the graver subjects of life seasonably gave place, and those honored with his acquaintance cannot forget the pleasure with which they have listened to those interesting reminiscences. His Alma Mater never lost her place in his heart—never needed counsel or support which he was not ready to render; and in return, whilst she joyfully watched the career of her favored son, she delighted to express her gratitude by decking his honored brow with every garland in her gift. Always a leading member in the Board of Visitors, he was first advanced to its Presidency, and at last chosen to its Chancellorship—an office in which he had no precursor but the Father of his Country, from whose death it was kept vacant from profound respect for his memory, till by acclamation our departed brother was declared his worthy successor.

True to his early training and instinct, with the fine spirit of the period when he attained to manhood, his step was steady, his course consistent, and his movements onward and upward, with manly bearing and salutary influence, to the loftiest eminence assigned to those whom the State and nation delight to honor. He had made himself necessary to both. Neither could afford to dispense with his valuable services. Such a man need not, if he could, spend his time and strength in catering for his personal popularity, and in unworthy wrestlings with competitors for place and power, and profit. The public eye will find him out; public want call for his aid; the public hand draw from his modest retirement, and give him the position and honor for which noisy aspi-

rants should be left to pine in merited neglect. And such has been the history of our lamented brother, from the hour when he left the shades of his beloved university up to the moment when we assemble to consign his body, shrouded in the drapery of death, to an honorable grave.

His appreciated intelligence was needed in our counsels, and the people of his country send him as their representative man—the interests of the Commonwealth need peculiar administrative power, and he is placed in the Gubernatorial chair; the Senate of his country calls for the wisdom of experience and the refinement of a gentlemen to influence its proceedings; and the Legislature of his State commission him as their sage and model. The country at large look for men of superior ability and sterling worth to manage their interest and determine their destiny; and he is chosen by the nation to stand next to its Chief Magistrate, and soon, by the Providence of God, he is placed in the Presidential chair. "Honor to whom honor is due."

We cannot say his course culminated here, for it experienced no subsequent decline. Its brightness and general influence were not diminished by the altered line of his orbit. Though this passed for a season to a region of which ordinary vision is less observant, and radiated its light through a medium which rendered it less obvious to the public eye, he was only gathering new energy, that in the approaching hour of his country's gloom, he might come forth with renewed force, and rejoice as a strong man to run his race. But experience has proved, that it was not for created light to dispel the darkness

and check the corruption which brooded over and poisoned the fountains of national power. The light which was ineffectual *there* was given to our path—how clearly, and with what force and happy effect we do not yet perhaps, duly appreciate. In its direct action for our benefit it has ceased. I will not say set, for notwithstanding the lengthened day, its radiance was not dimmed. It went down at noon.

He, who so long lent, has withdrawn the blessing not in displeasure, I trust, but to teach us not to put our confidence in man, "whose breath is in his nostrils," but in God, who liveth and abideth forever—"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof passeth away, but the word of the Lord endureth for ever."

From the effect of this arrangement there is no dispensation. "By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, in that all have sinned." This is a warfare from which there is no discharge. It is not a fortuitous event, but a Divine appointment—"appointed to men once to die."

This decree is irresistible in its force, and universal in its application. One generation passeth away, and another cometh, as wave followeth wave on the ocean, to break and disappear on the dark shore. Death is inexorable. If usefulness could have staid the stroke it would not have prostrated that venerable form. If temporal distinction could have dazzled the vision and distracted the aim, his fatal shaft would not have pierced that heart. If personal virtues, cultivated intellect, a high order of eloquence, uncommon col-

loquial power could charm the stern executioner, he would not have dealt the deadly blow. If public respect, warm personal friendship, the tenderest, strongest charities of domestic life could prevail, we would not be here in sorrow for our sore bereavement. But irrespective of all that is honest and honorable and refined and of good report, sooner or later, the decree is executed—the silver chord is broken—the body dissolves into its native elements; "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust"—the spirit returns to God who gave it.

That the gifted mind which lately dwelt in this lifeless body, was accustomed to meditate on the inevitable event which has now occurred—that our lamented brother was firmly convinced of the Divine origin of the Christian religion, and regarded it as furnishing the only ground for a reasonable hope of pardon and peace—he never hesitated to affirm. That with these views, when a few years since, he thought the time of his departure at hand, he deliberately considered that he had made adequate provision for its solemn issues, we do know from the testimony of the pastor of the Church which he loved to frequent, and in whose scriptural and impressive ritual he so reverently joined. These are among the interesting facts to which we recur for solace and support under our irreparable loss, as they indicate that the great work for Eternity was not neglected through life, to be hurried over amidst the haste of surprise and the disabling infirmities of dissolution.

Let, then, the occasion which has brought us together speak in sepulchral tones to every hearer, and

especially to those who, in their several relations, have been associated with our deceased brother in moulding and vitalizing this new Republic, in the service of which he freely spent his latest energies. Bear solemnly in mind your tremendous responsibility to God and man, for yourselves, and for millions whose welfare is largely entrusted to your care. Remember that life is short, and eternal judgment sure and unerring. Prepare in time to meet your God, who is no respecter of persons. Flee for shelter to the only Refuge for sinners—the cross of Christ—and find salvation there. "Seek that wisdom which cometh down from above, which is pure and peaceable, and profitable to direct," that by your endeavors "all things may be so ordered and settled upon the best and surest foundations, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations." Then, when your eye has lost its lustre, and your heart has ceased to beat, and sorrowing survivors bear you to the receptacle of the dead, a grateful and prosperous country will cherish your honored memory, and generations in succession rise up and call you blessed.

We now turn to the last sad service of the day—and if, as we stand in that cemetery and commit this body to the ground, memory carries us back to a similar scene, some few years since, when the remains of another distinguished son of Virginia were respectfully brought from a distant State, to repose in their native soil—brought by those who were then bound to us by national relationship, and cordially welcomed as brethren—whose hands helped us in the sacred ceremony, and whose hearts felt as at the interment

of a common benefactor, but who are now pressing upon us to devastate our land and subjugate our people—let us try, despite of the grievous wrong we have endured, to remember Him, who one day was greeted by the hosannas of the multitude, who, the next vociferated, "crucify Him, crucify Him"—and let us endeavor with His spirit, and in His words to pray, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

This spirit will nerve our arms to noble resistance of all invasion, and secure us His favor, who is the only giver of all victory. "The Lord of Hosts will be with us," and "God, ever our own God, will give us His blessing."